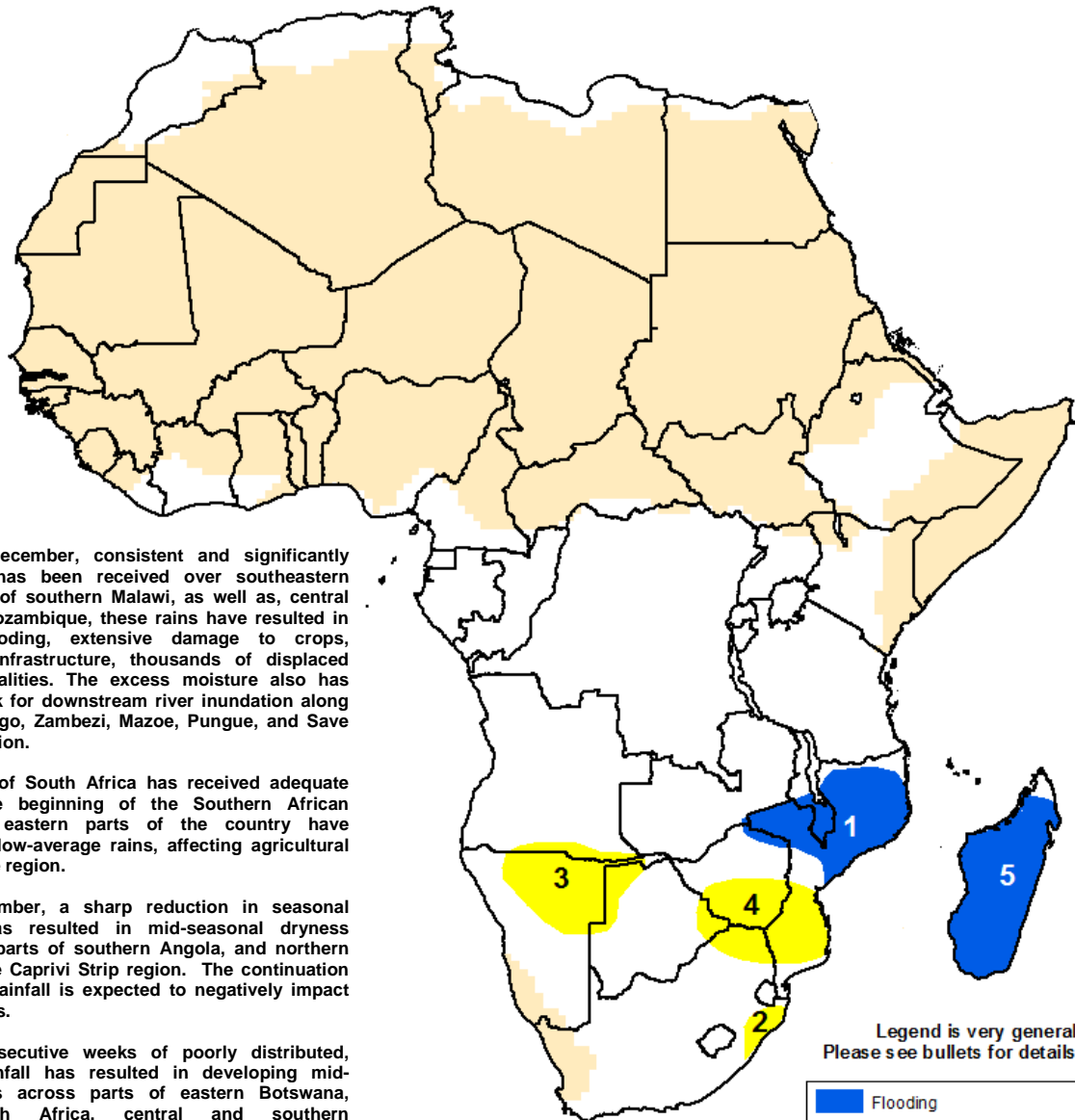




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 5 – February 11, 2015

- Heavy rains are forecast for already saturated areas around the Mozambique Channel.
- Widespread moderate rain was observed across southern Africa during the past week.



1) Since mid-December, consistent and significantly heavy rainfall has been received over southeastern Africa. In parts of southern Malawi, as well as, central and northern Mozambique, these rains have resulted in widespread flooding, extensive damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure, thousands of displaced people, and fatalities. The excess moisture also has elevated the risk for downstream river inundation along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region.

2) While much of South Africa has received adequate rains since the beginning of the Southern African monsoon, the eastern parts of the country have accumulated below-average rains, affecting agricultural conditions in the region.

3) In late-December, a sharp reduction in seasonal precipitation has resulted in mid-seasonal dryness across several parts of southern Angola, and northern Namibia into the Caprivi Strip region. The continuation of suppressed rainfall is expected to negatively impact developing crops.

4) Several consecutive weeks of poorly distributed, suppressed rainfall has resulted in developing mid-season dryness across parts of eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, central and southern Mozambique, with the largest moisture deficits in southern Zimbabwe. Continued dryness is forecast for some areas in early February, and may result in deteriorating ground conditions and wilting crops in the region.

5) An anomalous cyclonic circulation in the Mozambique Channel is likely to increase rainfall totals across much of Madagascar for the next week. With numerous reports of flooding across Madagascar causing damages to crops and infrastructure and increasing the risk for water-borne disease outbreaks, heavy rains during the next week will further increase flooding concerns.

Legend is very general.
Please see bullets for details.



Flooding continues across southeastern Africa.

During the final week of January, rains once again fell heavily (>50mm) across saturated areas in southeastern Africa. The highest rainfall totals (>100mm) were located across central/northern Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia and northern Madagascar. However, in contrast to past weeks, moderate rain (10-40mm) extended across the vast majority of southern Africa. These moderate rains fell across locations in northern Namibia, Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique, Angola and South Africa (**Figure 1**) where dryness has been deepening recently, due to several consecutive weeks of below-average rains. Below-average rains, though, were still observed across Tanzania.

The month of January has been marked by torrential southern Africa monsoonal rains across central/northern Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar and Zambia. These rains stood in stark contrast to the beginning of the monsoon season in November through the middle of December where a delayed start to rains led to concerns for cropping. Instead, after the first month of 2015, thirty-day anomalies indicate surpluses between 100-300mm (**Figure 2**). This has led to numerous reports of flooding, thousands displaced, damage to crops, livestock, infrastructure and fatalities throughout the month. Malawi and Mozambique have declared states of emergencies/red alerts due to the poor ground conditions as there remains an increased risk for river flooding along the Shire, Licungo, Zambezi, Mazoe, Pungue, and Save Rivers in the region. In Madagascar, similar flooding concerns exist as past rains have increased the risk for river flooding and water-borne disease outbreaks, especially in the capital of Antananarivo.

For the upcoming week, heavy (>75mm) and above-average rain is forecast over saturated areas in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Madagascar. These rains are likely to further exacerbate ground conditions, maintaining flooding concerns. The heaviest rains (>100mm) are expected over Madagascar heightening concerns for additional flooding.

Dryness develops across southern and western parts of southern Africa.

While copious amounts of rain continue to inundate parts of southwestern Africa, anomalously dry conditions have developed in parts of southern Angola, northern Namibia, northwestern Botswana, and the Caprivi Strip region as well as eastern Botswana, northern South Africa, southern Mozambique and southern Zimbabwe. Since the beginning of January, these locations have registered rainfall less than the 15th percentile (**Figure 3**). The deficits have developed from extended dry spells and an erratic distribution of rain. During the past week, rains increased across these dry areas providing some relief to dry conditions; however, below-average rains are forecast for the next week in western southern Africa, which will increase rainfall deficits and potentially negatively impact crops. Meanwhile, light to moderate rains (5-40mm) are expected for dry areas in southern Zimbabwe continuing to help improve upon recently dry conditions.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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